Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~PCT/EP/04396~~ PCT/EP97/04396 (WO 98/07036) teaches a process for determining the status of an organism by peptide measurement. The reference teaches the measurement of peptides in a sample of the organism which contains both high and low molecular weight peptides and acts as an indicator of the organism's status. The reference concentrates on the measurement of low molecular weight peptides , i.e. below 30,000 Daltons, whose distribution serves as a representative cross-section of defined controls. Contrary to the methodology of the instant invention, the '396 patent strives to determine the status of a healthy organism, i.e. a "normal" and then use this as a reference to differentiate disease states. The present inventors do not attempt to develop a reference "normal", but rather strive to specify particular markers which are evidentiary of at least one specific disease state, whereby the presence of said marker serves as a positive indicator of disease. This leads to a simple method of analysis which can easily be performed by an untrained individual, since there is a positive correlation of data. On the contrary, the '396 patent requires a complicated analysis by a highly trained individual to determine disease state versus the perception of non-disease or normal physiology.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Preparatory to the conduction of the SELDI MS procedure, various preparatory steps were carried out in order to maximize the diversity of discernible ~~moities~~ moieties ~~educable~~ from the sample. Utilizing a type of micro-chromatographic column called a C18-ZIPTIP available from the Millipore company, the following preparatory steps were conducted.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The specific disease markers which are analyzed according to the method of the invention are released into the circulation and may be present in the blood or in any blood product, for example plasma, serum, cytolyzed blood, e.g. by treatment with hypotonic buffer of detergents and dilutions and preparations thereof, and other body fluids, e.g. cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), saliva, urine, lymph, and the like. The presence of each marker is determined using antibodies specific for each of the markers and detecting specific binding of each antibody to its respective marker. Any suitable direct or indirect assay method may be used to determine the level of each of the specific markers measured according to the invention. The assays may be competitive assays, sandwich assays and the label may be selected from the group of well-known labels

such as radioimmunoassay, fluorescent, or chemiluminescence immunoassay or immunoPCR technology. Extensive discussion of the known immunoassay techniques is not required here since these are known to those of ~~skilled~~ skill in the art. See Takahashi et al. (Clin Chem 1999; 45(8): 1307) for S100B assay.